

art of successful matings comes, one might say, naturally, although to many—altogether too many—success has been due to good luck, without any serious thought given to type or quality other than that the sire mated to their mares was of good appearance.

On the other hand, more than one considers that because, by the same slipshod method he is overtaken with ill-luck, the breeding of the better class of horses is a failure.

Andrew Graham, a year ago, in addressing the Manitoba Horse-breeders' Association on raising the standard of draft horses in the Province, said: "The introduction of the Scottish hiring system, or the judicious purchase of good horses by companies of farmers should result in great improvement of our horse stock. We will suppose a case. A community of farmers have been breeding in a slipshod way. Their horse reputation is not good. Buyers are scarce at prices leaving no profit. They see their mistake, get together, hire or buy a first-class horse, breed from him for a term of three or four years, when he must step to one side because his fillies are coming on, all of which are at least half-sisters. Another, if possible better, horse takes his place. At the end of his breeding term, all the breeding mares of the district, six years and under, will be very closely related in blood, and naturally should be of similar type and conformation. If this is followed up consistently, the community would soon have a fine horse reputation. Buyers will be attracted, and good horses become the rule, not the exception. No trouble matching teams here, and the farmers will derive double or triple the profits that they had from their former slipshod methods."

Other breeders in the West, with whom our Western contemporary communicated in discussing the matter, could advise nothing better than the selection of a sire whose breeding is beyond reproach, and whose individual excellence also marks him as a valuable sire, and breeding the same mares to the same sire year after year.

It seems like a case of the use of sires which were not noted for their prepotency. This latter characteristic is wanting in too many sires of all classes of stock, the horse not excluded. Lack of prepotency generally goes with rather indifferent breeding. A horse, if the result of crossing widely-diversified blood strains, is seldom an individual which can be relied upon to transmit like qualities to his offspring at different services. A well-bred sire, of high individual excellence should be capable of stamping his mark indelibly upon his offspring when mated with grade mares. If pure-breeding means anything to the live-stock business, it should at least be able to make itself prominent in such cases. With a stallion of indifferent breeding, and mares of a still commoner class, it is quite easy to see why uniformity would be absent in the offspring; but, as the mares are graded up and gradually show better breeding, a good sire should produce colts very much alike. This is a question for breeders to ponder in their mind. The greater bulk of the mares in Canada are grade mares. The thing to do is to breed these mares to the best available stallion of the breed of which they are grades, and breed to the same stallion year after year if good results are obtained from the first mating. The results obtained by this particular Western breeder show clearly that the best-bred stallion is none too good for breeding purposes, and that the best stallion in any district may not prove valuable as a breeder. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," so the value of the sire is shown by his offspring. No sire should be used unless his breeding is of the best, and his conformation, action and individuality point to usefulness as a breeder.

Shying and Other Faults.

A shying horse is a very annoying and possibly dangerous possession. The habit is attributed to all sorts of things, but the two that produce the most shying are fear and exuberance of spirits. A horse darts away from real or imaginary danger, sometimes moving in a desperate manner. He may hear a rustle in the hedge, his instincts suggesting an enemy to be avoided, but the greatest cause is exuberance, mad freshness, and when a bird flies out of the hedge, and sometimes when nothing gives provocation, the horse shies violently and repeatedly. This habit of shying is cured by plenty of work, and all shying is minimized, if not wholly cured, by hard labor. If a horse shies, he should be found often, and to provide an outlet for his spare energies. If one is on a journey with a shying horse, one must not let the pace will soon make him do so.

There are other faults of manners. If a horse is addicted to rearing, the driver must so manage the reins that the horse does not rise at right angles to the shaft, but comes down parallel with them; otherwise, one shaft comes on the horse's back, and is broken if the belly band be tight. All rearing is readily cured by regular work and plenty of it. In a saddle horse

it is a most dangerous habit. Some horses are so impetuous that they will not wait for the driver and others to get into the conveyance. This is a nuisance, but such horses are steadied by keeping their faces to the wall during the time of attaching them to the conveyance, and until all passengers are ready to start.—[Farmer and Stock-breeder.

Advantages of May Foals.

Perhaps the ideal time of year for the farm mare to foal is from the middle to the end of May, or in ordinary seasons just after the rush of spring's work and before the very hot weather sets in. A colt foaled at this time should go ahead rapidly. Everything is in his favor. The weather is warm, but not suffocating, and the abundant growth of young succulent grass favors a heavy milk flow, and an abundance of milk ensures a thrifty colt. The mare is not required to do much if any work on the farm for some time, and the colt gets a good start. Much depends on this start. More than the casual observer thinks. A thin, scrawny, poorly-nourished foal gets a setback from which he seldom if ever completely recovers, no matter how good the care given him in after years. The fat foal is more likely to make a good horse than the very thin colt. Spring is the natural time of year for the colts to arrive, and there is no better time for breeding the mares, as far as chances of conception are concerned, than late in May or in June. The weather is warm, which is believed to have a beneficial effect towards inducing conception, and the mare usually has just come through the seeding operations, which have somewhat materially lessened her supply of flesh, and is on a good grass pasture which tones up her system, causes her to begin to replace the lost fat, and keeps her digestive system active and the bowels laxative. Such a condition has been found very conducive to ease of getting the mare to conceive. Breeding a mare which is gaining in flesh is much more likely to be productive than breeding one which is rapidly becoming thinner.

The colt foaled on grass is not exposed to so much danger from joint-ill as the one foaled in a stable where the germs may lurk in the dirt, and it is impossible to dispel all dirt from the stable. The bedding upon which the colt is deposited contains a large amount of it. Not so with good clean grass. There is danger everywhere, but less on the grass than in the stalls; however, antiseptic precautions should be taken to insure freedom from the trouble.

The colt foaled at this season, while not so early as to be injured by bad spring weather, is sufficiently early to have attained a good growth before the flies become so bad as to be a pest. Flies seem to delight in annoying a young colt, and the trouble which they give him does not make for his welfare, but proves a great drawback to his growth. The younger the colt the greater the loss from this cause.

Just now seems to be a very logical time to breed, from the viewpoint of the mare, the colt and the farm work. All mares cannot be bred at this season, but many can, and the owners of these can do no better than breed them now.

LIVE STOCK

Very young pigs should be kept dry. Running through long wet grass is injurious.

At New York, on May 27th, beef is reported to have reached the highest price recorded in thirty years, 13½ cents per pound wholesale.

The sow which is nursing a young litter should be well fed, as it is while the pigs are young that they make most economical gains.

Give the old sow a chance to keep up her good work as long as she proves useful. Too many discard their sows when they are just in their prime. The best success follows when a few proven matrons are retained in the herd. Changing is costly.

The first three months of the lamb's life are of greatest importance. Keep the ewes on good pasture, so that they have every opportunity to feed their offspring well. This also affords a chance to weed out the poor milking dams. Lambs which do not do well under these conditions owe their poor condition to the scarcity of their mother's milk. Turn the unprofitably poor milkers away to the butcher.

What shall we do towards keeping the calves on grass? The future of the herd depends entirely upon the calves, and the class of calves depends upon the care and management given them. A well-fed calf, kept clean and dry, with good ventilation is one of the best places to

keep them during the day, and at night a grass plot is ideal. Give them plenty of green feed. There is nothing better than clover or alfalfa.

Water is almost as important to success with stock as feed. Nothing fills the want better than a spring or running stream, but many pasture fields are not so fortunately situated. Where this is the case care should be taken to keep a frequently replenished supply pumped in a clean trough in a shady place if at all practicable. During the hot weather the stock enjoys a cool drink as much as you do yourself.

The Aberdeen-Angus as a Beef Animal.

The Irish Farming World recently published a few facts from Albert Pulling, relating to the crossing and other merits of Aberdeen-Angus cattle. One of the most convincing evidences of the commercial value of the breed, as cited by Mr. Pulling, was the practical monopoly of the cross-bred classes and prizes year after year at the Smithfield and other fat-stock shows by Aberdeen-Angus grades and crosses; the overwhelming annual successes of the breed and its crosses in the carcass competition since its institution in 1904, and the fact that the prices per cwt. of "Polled Scots" at the butchers' markets invariably top the list.

Continuing, Mr. Pulling states that evidence of the superiority of the Aberdeen-Angus in its pure state as a beef breed, which forms a motive for crossing it with other breeds for their improvement—a reason why its crosses with the Short-horn particularly should occupy such an outstanding position—and further proof that they do occupy that position is to be found in the fact that of the awards for the cups offered for the "best steer" and "best heifer" at the Smithfield show during the last twenty-five years the following percentages have obtained:

Aberdeen-Angus, 38 per cent.; Shorthorn, 24 per cent.; Aberdeen-Angus and Shorthorn cross, 20 per cent.; Hereford, 8 per cent.; Devon, 6 per cent.; Galloway and Shorthorn cross, 4 per cent.

In the awards for the cup for the "best beast under two years old" since its institution in 1899 the percentages have been: Aberdeen-Angus-Short-horn cross, 46.1 per cent.; Shorthorn, 30.7 per cent.; Aberdeen-Angus, 7.7 per cent.; Aberdeen-Angus and Dexter cross, 7.7 per cent.; Hereford, 7.7 per cent.

Mr. Pulling counselled breeders of Aberdeen-Angus cattle to maintain size as well as quality, believing that the word "quality" loosely used had done much harm. The use of inbred bulls on inbred females tends to decrease the size, and the kind of cattle wanted are those with plenty of size, substance and bone.

System with the Flock.

All enterprises give better returns when some system is followed in carrying on the work. Agriculture in all its branches can be made as systematic as the operation of a departmental store, or it can be allowed to dwindle into a haphazard state, with variations in the work almost as great as those made by the weather. The live-stock end of farming can be made a success only by following a system. Sheep-raising, that part of Canada's animal husbandry which has reached a very low ebb, can be made much more profitable by adhering to some regular plan. Here is one taken from a Highland shepherd's diary of a year in the management of a Blackface flock as given in the current volume of Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland:

March—Dip all sheep.
April (end of)—Lambing begins.
June (1st week)—"Marking" lambs.
June (3rd week)—Clipping begins.
August (3rd week)—Dip all sheep and separate the lambs.
September—Autumn sales.
October (end of)—Dip all sheep and separate cast ewes.

November (2nd week)—Hogs brought in from the hills for wintering.

November (last week)—Let out tups.

While the dates may not be exactly suited to our conditions here, the system is highly commendable. Sheep are all dipped before going to grass. Lambs are dropped at the same time each year, and are marked when a little over a month old, so as to insure no mistakes in identity. Clipping is done at a regular time, although rather late for our conditions unless washing is practiced. Sheep are dipped, culled, bred and cared for with a regularity that points to success. If more of our sheep-owners would practice a system approximating this, and not leave the sheep to rustle for themselves and work out their own salvation, there would be less of that feeling of prejudice against sheep, which is in evidence in the country at the present time. Give the flock a chance to show a profit by managing them with a definite system.